



Biography of Colleen M. Kelley, National President

National President Colleen M. Kelley is the leader of the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), the nation's largest independent federal sector union, representing 150,000 employees in 31 separate government agencies. As the union's top elected official, she leads NTEU's efforts to achieve the dignity and respect federal employees deserve. As spokesperson for the union, Kelley represents NTEU with the agencies, in the media, and testifies before Congress on issues of importance to union members and federal employees.



Kelley led the union's successful effort to end the IRS' program to outsource the collection of tax debts to private collection agencies, citing the danger to taxpayer's private information and the risk of taxpayer harassment. The NTEU president fought to protect DHS employees' collective bargaining rights by successfully leading a lawsuit against a revamped personnel system the agency tried to impose on its employees and won an enhanced Law Enforcement Officer retirement benefit for Customs and Border Protection Officers. Kelley is a leader in the fight to rein in government contracting and to return contracted work into the hands of trained and accountable federal employees. She also played a leading role in the effort to restore labor-management collaboration to the federal sector.

President Kelley sits on the National Council on Federal Labor-Management Relations, the Federal Salary Council, the Employee Thrift Advisory Council of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA) Board of Directors, and the Federal Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health (FACOSH). She also is a member of the Board of Governors of the Partnership for Public Service, which is committed to enhancing perceptions of public service and encouraging participation in the public sector.

A Pittsburgh native, certified public accountant (CPA) and an NTEU member since 1974, Kelley was an IRS Revenue Agent for 14 years and served in various NTEU chapter leadership positions, including chapter president of NTEU Chapter 34 in Pittsburgh. She was elected National President in August 1999 and was overwhelming re-elected to a fourth four-year term in 2011.

Kelley first joined the IRS upon graduation from Drexel University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. She also earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Pittsburgh.